Nnenia Campbell

Nnenia Campbell is a doctoral candidate in the CU Boulder Department of Sociology, research assistant at the Natural Hazards Center, and managing editor of the Natural Hazards Review. Nnenia’s dissertation research involves a qualitative examination of the 2013 floods in Boulder County, specifically focusing on social capital and disaster recovery among adults aged 60 and older.
Social Capital and Disaster Recovery Among Older Adults: A Case Study of the 2013 Colorado Floods

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Understanding Risk Boulder
Boulder, CO
October 23, 2015
Demographic Shift: Implications for Disaster Vulnerability

- Growth within senior population
- Implications for financial stability, living arrangements
- Intersection with disaster

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Figure 1: Number of Persons 65+, 1900 to 2060 (numbers in millions)
Health Status and Disaster Vulnerability

- Chronic health conditions
- Physical disability
- Cognitive impairment
- Mental health
Social Capital

• Social networks in advanced age
• Implications for disaster situations
  – Response
  – Recovery
Agency and Resilience

- Dominance of vulnerability perspective
- Diversity within aging population
- Capacity as a post-disaster resource
Purpose

(a) To analyze how various forms of social capital influence older adults’ recovery trajectories.

(b) To examine how the social context shapes the way seniors interpret and respond to disaster-related experiences.
September 2013 Floods

- Severed access to neighborhoods and communities
- Estimated $4 billion in damage across state
- 16,000 structures damaged
- 10 fatalities, 5 aged 60 and older
## Methods and Analysis

### Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviews with seniors</th>
<th>Interviews with key stakeholders</th>
<th>Secondary data</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>~40</td>
<td>~20</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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### Data Analysis

- Review of transcripts, notes, secondary data
- Memo recording
- Modified open coding
Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

- Challenges arranging relief and recovery assistance
- Social network disruption
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency
Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

“It’s one thing for someone in their 40s to have to walk an extra eighth of a mile to get to their car; it’s another thing for someone who is in their 60s or 70s.”
Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

- Challenges arranging relief and recovery assistance
- **Social network disruption**
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency
Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

“This neighborhood doesn’t neighbor”
Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

• Challenges arranging relief and recovery assistance
• Social network disruption
• Senior caregivers
• Resilience and agency
Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

- Challenges arranging relief and recovery assistance
- Social network disruption
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency
Preliminary Findings:
Organizational Level

- Established client relationships facilitated communication and cooperation
- Challenges due to influx of resources
Preliminary Findings: Organizational Level

- Established client relationships and relationships between service providers facilitated communication and cooperation
- Challenges due to influx of resources
Conclusions

• Findings highlight importance of pre-existing relationships within and between organizations that support seniors.
• Greater attention to challenges during longer term following disaster in addition to support needed in the initial stages.
• Need to recognize factors that mediate outcomes for seniors.
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Acknowledgements

*This research has been funded by:*

- CU Boulder Center to Advance Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences
- American Sociological Association
- CU Boulder Department of Sociology